

Decision Sciences' Donna Davis to Chair BEDS

The 29-April-09 e-mail announcement from CoB dean Lance Nail informing CoB faculty that decision sciences' Donna Davis will chair the new (starting 1-July-09) department of business economics and decision sciences (BEDS) completely lacked the suspense usually accompanying such announcements. For weeks reporters and editorialists here at USMNEWS.net have been predicting that Davis would be elevated to chair the BEDS. Nail's e-mail only served to make the unofficial official.

Davis, a professor of decision sciences, takes over a unit made up of other decision scientists and business economists. The latter group has been led by George Carter since 2005. Carter's 2005-09 stint as chair over ECO, his second (including 1989-1997) in that capacity, was little better than a disaster, as attested to by the pages at USMNEWS.net that are filled with story after story of Carter's misdeeds while a CoB chair. Carter's second stint as ECO chair also followed the disastrous one of Mark Klinedinst (2003-05), who is also a professor of economics. Klinedinst has been most known on the pages of USMNEWS.net for not having published an indexed journal article since 1996. He's also well-known for having resisted at every possible opportunity the plans and goals of the Nail administration of the CoB (2008-present).

There is little doubt among many CoBers that Davis' leadership of the BEDS will represent a vast improvement over what was seen out of the EFIB under either Carter (2005-09) or Klinedinst (2003-05). Although, as sources point out, there will be pressures on Davis from the DS wing of the department, primarily from Chang-Tseh Hsieh, by placing the reins of power in the BEDS in decision sciences, Nail has already improved the CoB in a noticeable way.

Reporters and editorialists here at USMNEWS.net will certainly follow development from the BEDS over the coming months. Whatever develops from that quarter promises to be interesting.